



## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

3/8/2006

### MEMORANDUM

**SUBJ:** Role of EPA Regions, States and Tribes in Setting Targets for 2011 for the Clean and Safe Water Goal of the Revised EPA *Strategic Plan*

**FROM:** Michael H. Shapiro; Deputy Assistant Administrator /s/

**TO:** Deputy Regional Administrators  
Clean and Safe Water Goal Team

I want to extend my thanks to members of the Clean and Safe Water Goal Team, to Regional offices, and to the staff workgroup on strategic planning, for your work in developing the proposed revisions to the “architecture” of outcome measures for the related to the National Water Program. The new water measures are a significant improvement over the measures in the current *Strategic Plan* and will strengthen our planning, program execution, and assessment processes. The Agency has posted proposed changes to all five goals in the *Strategic Plan* on the Internet with a request for comments by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

I also want to ask for your help in strengthening the measures for the next *Strategic Plan* by improving the long range “targets” for the measures. The “architecture” being provided for public comment includes straw national targets describing the progress that EPA expects to make under the measures by the year 2011 or a closely related year. These targets represent the best estimates that National Program Managers and others were able to make with available data. I ask that Regions work with States, Tribes, and others to provide feedback on all the national targets and, for the measures identified in the attachment, to develop “regional targets” that are the best estimate of the contribution that the Region feels it can make under the measure by 2011.

The attached memorandum from Chief Financial Officer Lyons Gray concerning the revision of the *Strategic Plan* describes the purpose of, and process for developing, regional targets. In past strategic planning work, States and Tribes have expressed concern that they have had limited input in the development of national targets and that the national scale targets are too vague for States and Tribes to provide meaningful comments. The Agency also hopes to encourage senior Regional managers to consider all regional targets, “in a holistic manner – across all five goals – to ensure that they are neither over-committing nor under-committing in light of region specific priorities and circumstances.” Finally, a key purpose of the “bottom up” regional target process is to provide a basis for summation of regional targets at the national level and adjustment of the currently proposed straw national targets to reflect the regional targets.

A first step in the process of developing Regional targets is to identify the measures proposed for the new *Strategic Plan* for which it is feasible and appropriate to develop regional targets. Based on initial discussions with Subobjective Teams, with the National Water Program State and Tribal Steering Committee, and with Regional Water Division Directors at a recent national meeting, the Office of Water has identified measures for which Regions should work with States and Tribes to develop regional targets for the new *Strategic Plan* (see attached). For several of these measures, the National Water program has already adopted the practice of setting *annual* national targets through a bottom-up process and these measures are identified in the attachment. Additional information about the measures is available at the Office of Water Strategic Plan website: [www.epa.gov/water/waterplan](http://www.epa.gov/water/waterplan).

For the measures identified as needing regional targets, Regions should work with States and Tribes to identify a target that meets the general criteria of being “ambitious yet realistic.” In addition, the targets for these measures should be considered by Regional senior managers in the context of other measures for which the Region is proposing targets and the relative priority of each measure in the Region. After Regional targets are to be provided to Goal Teams along with other comments on the draft architecture in late March, the Clean and Safe Water Goal Team will propose national targets for the draft *Strategic Plan* that reflect the regional targets as well as the interests of National Program Managers.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that the long range (i.e. 2011) target setting process of the *Strategic Plan* measures will occur in the context of work with States and Tribes for setting *annual* targets for FY 2007 for some outcome measures, including some of those proposed for the new architecture, as well as program activity measures.

I appreciate that the development of Regional targets is a new aspect of the Agency strategic planning process and that this work requires the presentation of complex material to States, Tribes and the public over a limited period of time. At the same time, this process is an opportunity to significantly strengthen the integrity of the strategic planning process and to better calibrate national performance expectations with Regional capacity and priorities.

I look forward to working with you on this important matter.

cc: Ben Grumbles  
Brent Fewell  
Kathy O'Brien; OCFO  
Water Strategic Plan Workgroup

Attachments:

Agency *Strategic Plan* Memorandum  
Proposed Clean and Safe Water Measures Needing Regional Targets

**GOAL 2**  
**PROPOSED MEASURES FOR REGIONAL TARGETS**  
**3/3/2006**

(NOTE: Measures without Regional targets will have only national targets)

<b>Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water</b>	<b>Existing Regional Targets</b>	<b>Regional Targets Needed</b>
<b>Safe Drinking Water</b> 2.1.1: Percent population served by CWS meeting all health based drinking water standards	X	X
A: Percent of person months CWS provide drinking water meeting all health based standards	NA/new measure	X
B: Percent of CWS that meet all health based drinking water standard throughout the year		X
C: Percent of population in Indian country served by CWS providing drinking water that meets all health based standards		X
D: Percent of CWS and associated population served by CWS that have substantially implemented source water protection plans	X	X
E: Percent reduction in number of homes on tribal lands without access to safe drinking water		
<b>Fish and Shellfish Safe to Eat</b> 2.2.2: See measures below		
A: Percent of women of child bearing age having mercury in blood at levels above levels of concern	NA/new measure	
B: Percent of State monitored shellfish growing acres that are approved or conditionally approved for use that are impacted by anthropogenic sources		data being developed
<b>Safe Swimming</b> 2.1.3: Number of waterborne disease outbreaks attributable to swimming on coastal/Great Lakes waters		
A: Percent of days of the beach season that coastal and Great Lakes beaches monitored by States are open and safe for swimming		X

<b>Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis</b> 2.2.1 (see measures below)		
A: Number of impaired water restored	X	X
B: Number of use/source impairments restored	NA/new measure	X
C: Number of impaired watershed improved	NA/new measure	X
D: Condition of Nations's wadeable streams	NA/new measure	
E: Number of monitoring stations in Indian country showing improved water quality		X
F: Percent reduction in number of homes on tribal lands without access to basic sanitation		
<b>Improve Coastal and Ocean Waters</b> 2.2.2: Improvement in Coastal Waters on 5 Point Scale		
A: Maintain aquatic system health in the Northeast Region	NA/new measure	
B: Maintain aquatic system health in the Southeast Region	NA/new measure	
C: Maintain aquatic system health in the West Coast Region	NA/new measure	
D: Maintain aquatic system health in the Puerto Rico Region	NA/new measure	
E: Percent of active dredged material sites that have achieved environmentally acceptable conditions	NA/new measure	X